

'6,700 Iraqi refugees died in two months'

WASHINGTON (R) — An estimated 6,700 Iraqi refugees, mostly children under five, died during a two-month period in mountain camps along the Turkish border when they fled the Iraqi army's wrath, the U.S. government said Friday. It reported that more than 30 countries had contributed over \$740 million in bilateral and multilateral relief aid for the Iraqi refugees, mostly Kurds, who are now returning in large numbers to their homes and villages. The report, by the Agency for International Development, provided no fatality estimate for refugees who fled to Iraq's border with Iran. But it said the death toll among children under five at the Turkish border reached a peak rate of 30.5 per 10,000 population per day in the period from April 13 to April 26 when the refugees were crowded in mountain camps under freezing conditions with little food, water or shelter. The Centers for Disease Control, a U.S. agency, "estimates that 6,700 people, mostly children under five, died between March 29 and May 25," the report said.

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PLO official holds talks in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — PLO executive committee member Mahmoud Abbas discussed the Middle East peace process on Friday with a senior aide to President Hosni Mubarak. Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen, met Mubarak's top political adviser Osama Al Baz for two hours, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's representative in Cairo, Said Kamal, told reporters. Kamal said Abu Mazen had left for Jordan, where he would hold similar talks. PLO leader Yasser Arafat said in remarks published on Thursday there was an agreement in principle between Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the PLO on holding a meeting to coordinate positions before any Middle East peace talks.

**Five beheaded
in Saudi Arabia**

Riyadh (AP) — Five men convicted for various crimes were beheaded Friday in accordance with Saudi law based on the Islamic sharia, the interior ministry announced. They included a Pakistani national, Mumtaz Haji Nabhal, for smuggling narcotics, a crime for which the death penalty was introduced in Saudi Arabia in recent years. The other four were Saudis. Two were convicted of pirating a Riyadh taxi and robbing the driver at gunpoint, and the two others for snatching a girl from her father's house and raping her.

**Britain's first black
union chief**

LONDON (R) — Britain's first black trade union leader was elected on Friday in a landmark poll to head the country's biggest union of 1.2 million members. Jamaican-born Bill Morris, 52, will take over as general-secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) next March. Morris, who has been TGWU deputy general secretary for six years, beat three other candidates for the job and said his election was a victory for minority groups in Britain.

**Kuwait asks French
army engineers to
stay**

PARIS (R) — Kuwait has asked France to extend by a month the deployment of the emir of a detachment of French combat engineers who have defused thousands of mines and explosives. Parliament was told on Friday. Junior minister for veterans affairs Louis Mxeandine said the last 42 French sappers operating in Kuwait were due to leave next week but Kuwaiti authorities had asked if they could stay until mid-July. He indicated Paris's reply would be affirmative.

Gemayel aides arrested

BEIRUT (R) — Four aides of ex-President Anton Gemayel have been detained for distributing leaflets attacking a treaty tying Lebanon to its neighbour Syria, judicial sources said on Friday.

They said six people working at Gemayel's office in Beirut were arrested earlier this week and charged with attempting to disrupt security by handing out anti-government leaflets. Two of the six were later released. Gemayel said a statement last month last deplored the Lebanese-Syrian "brotherhood, cooperation and coordination" treaty that was signed in Damascus on May 22.

**Primakov believes
Gorbachev will be
Invited to G-7
summit**

MOSCOW (AP) — A top aide to Mikhail S. Gorbachev said U.S. President George Bush appears to be leaning towards inviting the Soviet president to attend next month's economic summit of industrialized nations. The aide, Yevgeny Primakov, told the government newspaper *Izvestia* that Bush recognised the Soviet Union did not intend to beg for massive Western aid if Gorbachev were allowed to attend the July 15-17 Group of Seven summit in London.

White House: Israel has 'other ideas'**Jordan accuses Israel of
blocking U.S. peace effort**

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan on Friday criticised Israel's rejection of a U.N. role at any Middle East peace conference and accused the Jewish state of blocking U.S. efforts to settle the conflict.

"It is strange that any country at this time in particular rejects a role for the United Nations, especially after the Gulf crisis," Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri told reporters.

"This only shows Israeli intentions regarding the (Israeli-) occupied territories and a peaceful solution."

U.S. president George Bush has sent letters to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Middle East leaders in an attempt to bridge differences between Israel and Arab countries over a peace conference.

American and Israeli officials would not disclose the contents of Shamir's reply. But the Israeli officials said Shamir remained as opposed as ever to Arab demands for U.N. participation and for a full conference to meet more than once.

Israeli reports said Bush asked Shamir to accept a minor U.N. role and a reconvening of the conference after six months to

hear reports on the progress of direct talks between Israel and Arab states.

"We have always said that the problem lies with Israel and Israel will be the reason for aborting the American efforts," Masri said. "Now Shamir comes up with this stand."

Jordan, a long-time supporter of a U.N.-sponsored peace conference, has shown flexibility towards the shape of the talks as long as the outcome would be Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories.

His Majesty King Hussein, who has accepted the principle of the conference, replied to Bush's letter by telling the president he would continue to work with the United States on the issue.

"His Majesty reiterated in the letter to Bush Jordan's sincere keenness to deal with Washington to achieve comprehensive peace in the region," a senior official said.

But one Jordanian official said: "At the rate things are going I do not foresee a peace conference soon. Israel does not want to compromise and the U.S. does not want to use pressure."

The White House acknowledged on Friday that Israel had "other ideas" about a formula for Middle East peace negotiations than the United States but insisted that this would not derail U.S. efforts to arrange a peace conference.

"We continue to pursue the matter," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said when asked about reports that Shamir had rejected President Bush's appeal to accept compromise conditions for peace talks.

Israeli officials said in Tel Aviv

that Shamir refused to agree to a United Nations role in the talks or more than one meeting of a full peace conference.

"His position is very clear — against any continuation of a conference and against any participation of the United Nations," said one official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Fitzwater refused to divulge details of Shamir's response but said that the United States had heard back from Israel and Jordan and continued to discuss the peace process with them.

"They have some other ideas. We have ideas. We continue to talk," he said.

**Islamic bloc wins presidency,
council of Pharmacists Association**

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic bloc scored a decisive victory in the Pharmacists Association elections on Friday, hours after they clashed with liberals and nationalists over arrangements to segregate voters according to their sexes.

Mr. Husam Iddine Mismar, the Islamist candidate won the presidency replacing Tayseer Humsi, a recognised liberal. The Islamic bloc won seven out of the nine seats on the association council.

As voters filed into the Professional Associations Complex Fri-

day morning they were faced with arrangements segregating voters by sex in two separate halls, witnesses and pharmacists said. The unexpected move surprised liberals who strongly objected to extending the Islamists' ideological beliefs to the halls of the association complex, they said.

Mr. Anis Muasher, a pharmacist and president of the Jordan Society for the Preservation of Nature said that a dispute erupted when voters entered to cast their votes and "saw that two separate boxes were set up, one designated for the male members and the other for the females."

"We have always voted together," Mr. Muasher told the Jordan Times. "The general assembly also agreed that there would be no segregation," he added.

Mr. Muasher, who reportedly tore out his voting card upon seeing the two separate boxes, said that he finally cast his vote "at the voting place designated for women."

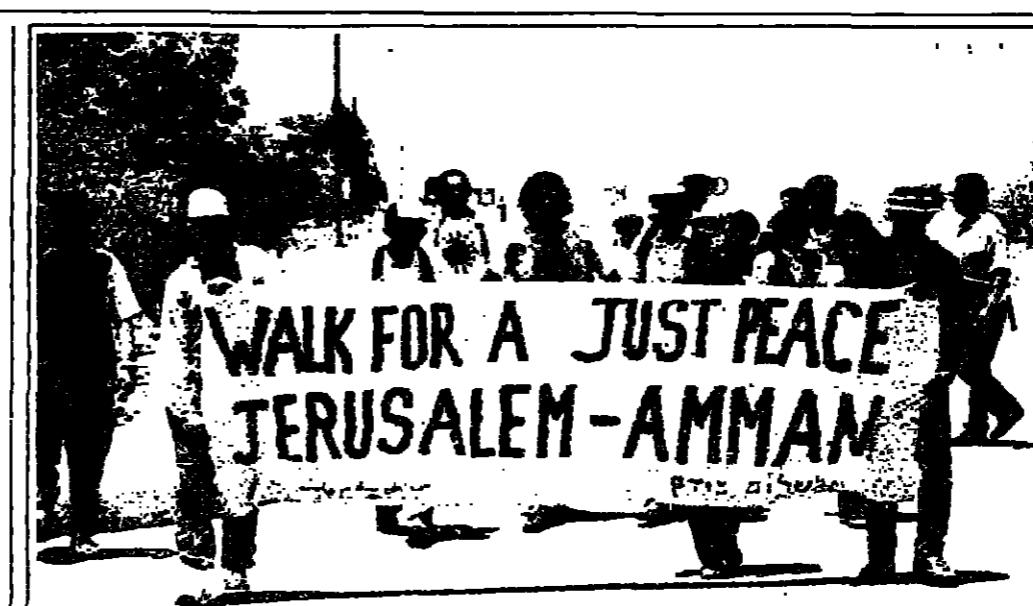
Bearded men blocked the entrance of the hall designated for men barring women from entering the room, eye witnesses said.

Mr. Humsi, the former president of the association in a speech

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Anis Muasher, pharmacist and President of Jordan Nature Preservation Society, tears up his ballot card in protest of Friday's procedural mix up; on the right the outgoing president of the pharmacists association, Tayseer Humsi wrangles with an Islamist activist (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

**After being arrested in Israel,
peace team now in Jordan**

KING HUSSEIN BRIDGE (AP)

International peace activists crossed into Jordan Friday after a three-day march in the West Bank to demonstrate in support of peace between Israel and the Arabs.

More than 20 members of the Gulf Peace Team crossed King Hussein bridge, a restricted military zone linking Jordan with the occupied West Bank, which along with other Arab lands was occupied by Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

By arriving here, the peace activists, of nine different western and Asian nationalities, ended the first half of a 140-kilometre walk commemorating the Middle

East war of 1967.

The group was arrested twice by Israeli forces in the occupied territories for allegedly entering restricted military areas.

Paasonen's remarks were made to the Associated Press as the group silently marched through the deserted streets of a small town, overlooking the Jordan River and the mountains of Jerusalem.

"Walk for a just peace, Jerusalem-Amman," read one of the banners which the group waived for cameramen as they proceeded to a camping area outside the restricted military zone.

(Continued on page 5)

**FLN denies deal:
FIS proclaims victory, ends strike**

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's Muslim fundamentalists Friday called off a general strike which inspired days of protests, brought down a government and saw troops enforcing a state of siege on the city of

together. The political violence, which killed up to 50 people according to Western diplomats, resulted in the postponement of Algeria's first multi-party parliamentary elections, planned for June 27.

Neither Madani nor Belhadj had been seen in public since Tuesday, hours before President Chadli Benjedid imposed a state of siege on the country, sacked the government and postponed the elections.

"After the latest negotiations, in which we won a victory for all Muslims in Algeria, there will be legislative and presidential elections in six months," the fiery FIS deputy leader Ali Belhadj said.

"You must return to work," he told the massive crowd.

More than 50,000 FIS supporters roared "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greater) in response to the statements by Belhadj and

The FIS launched the general strike on May 25 to force changes in election rules and demand that Chadli himself face the voters at the same time as the parliamentary polls.

The next presidential election had been set for 1998.

Western diplomatic sources estimate that between 40 and 50 people have been killed in two weeks of street demonstrations during which protesters also called for an immediate Islamic state.

"I hope that the new government will not commit the same follies as the old one," Belhadj told FIS supporters Friday.

Earlier Friday, the Algerian news agency APS reported that gunmen in Islamic fundamentalist strongholds had shot and wounded five members of the security forces during the first night of a curfew in the capital.

Soldiers returned fire, but there were no reports of other casualties.

Ghazali, holding talks with politicians, on Thursday met five of the 59 political parties who had been due to contest the June 27 elections. The five, named by Algerian Television, did not include the FIS.

Martyrs' and May 1st squares, used as FIS rallying points for the now-banned protests, were cordoned off on Friday by tanks and soldiers, some with bayonets fixed.

The treaty, the first to sharply reduce stockpiles of the deadliest long-range nuclear missiles, is the projected centerpiece for a summit meeting in Moscow between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Last week, White House officials were spreading the word that talks might be held in late June. But Baker all but scoffed that possibility.

"That is going to be a difficult time-frame to try and meet," he said at a news conference before flying to Geneva to meet with Bessmertnykh.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater also expressed doubt about a late June date.

Baker, in Copenhagen for a NATO foreign ministers' meeting, flew to Geneva for a hastily arranged meeting with Bessmertnykh at the Soviet diplomatic mission.

They were discussing the strategic arms reduction talks (START) treaty, which will cut superpower arsenals of the most destructive weapons known to mankind by about a third.

Baker told a news conference before leaving Copenhagen that the negotiations were now moving towards their "endgame."

But Bessmertnykh told TASS news agency he did not expect a breakthrough.

Charter: A common ground with no ceiling

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The final draft of the National Charter says the document "lays the foundations for the general national effort and guides its route... illuminates the road to the future... lays the general directives for the practice of political pluralism — considered the cornerstone of democracy — by leaning on constitutional foundations, national political heritage and the existing realities of the Jordanian society... in a manner which would ensure the continuation of the national development march and the democratic shift in the country... guarding it against tripping or turning backwards."

The pessimists contended it

was a "hoax," the legally minded amongst them said it was an attempt to pull the carpet from under the constitution; while some other political activists thought it was an attempt to whitewash the different shades of political thinking in the Kingdom.

However, mainstream politi-

cians recognised the need to do something to mark the shift from authoritarian rule to a state governed by democracy in all its aspects and embedded in lasting institutions.

"Our role will be to draft a National Charter which will constitute the starting point upon which people from all walks of life will meet before they are launched into the practice of political pluralism," His Majesty King Hussein said in mandating the commission on April 21, 1990.

In the final analysis, what the King proposed in Ramadan of last year finally emerged as the basis for what the National Charter stands for today.

"The National Charter is not a ceiling for political manoeuvre; it is the common denominator among the different political ideologies in the country," a member of the commission says.

The undercurrents that

steered the debate of the panel that "the main objective and duty of this commission is to draft a charter; preparing an

agreement defining the country's higher objectives at all levels and securing the endorsement of the people on common efforts towards achieving these objectives."

Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, a former minister and president of the University of Jordan, rejected suggestions that the National Charter was a purely political goal. "The National Charter is not political and does not merely have a political character... it has different axis of sociology, economy and politics."

Mr. Sulaiman Al Hadidi, a former head of the Lawyers Association, laid out the questions that were on the minds of many. "We want to know the strength of the charter vis-a-vis the constitution. Is it in itself a constitution? is it a law? is it higher? we want at least to know what this is for?"

"My personal opinion of the charter is that it explains the constitution, the constitution is

the skeleton and the charter, if you will, is the muscles and nerves," Dr. Ishaq Al Farhan, an Islamist and former minister of education, said.

Issa Mdanat, prominent member of the Communist Party and a deputy, underlined the subordinate position of the charter vis-a-vis the constitution. "I personally believe that the charter is not an alternative to the constitution, nor an attempt at dodging the constitution. The constitution is the source with which the charter has to be compatible."

How did these differing opinions and ideologies merge to formulate a single document, a social contract for the country? Participants in the commission maintain that some paragraphs in the charter on "The charter — reasons and aims" took many hours and much hard work to write.

The final product, which

(Continued on page 5)

**Badran orders
3 factories open**

By Khalil Abdul Salam
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Friday ordered that three factories, closed down last week for violating health safety regulations, open. The prime minister said the waste water flowing out of these factories was of minor effect on the Zarqa River water, but stipulated these factories tackle the violations.

Mr. Badran also issued directives that other 15 factories be also opened once they complied with health safety regulations.

Agreement on autonomy for Iraqi Kurds likely by mid-month; minister says liberalisation irreversible

BAGHDAD, Iraq (Agencies) — Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani says he expects to sign an agreement giving autonomy to Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds by mid-June after overcoming disagreements on the size of the Kurdish region.

"There will be an agreement by the 15th of June, or maybe the 20th of June," Barzani told reporters during impromptu news conferences late Thursday night and Friday morning at a Baghdad hotel.

Barzani, head of the largest Iraqi Kurdish rebel faction, announced May 18 that a delegation of Kurdish leaders had reached agreement in principle with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the outlines of democracy for Iraq and autonomy for the Kurds.

A month earlier, the other main Kurdish leader, Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, had reported a more general agreement with Iraq for autonomy.

In spite of repeated Iraqi and Kurdish reports that a final deal was imminent, no pact has been forthcoming.

Barzani said he was sending teams to the north to consult with local leaders there.

An agreement could help ease international pressure on the Iraqi leader and give Iraqi Kurds the autonomy they have vainly sought for decades.

It could also solve the dilemma of Western forces trying to protect Kurds who fled after an uprising in March. They want to leave, but there are fears withdrawal could lead to reprisal attacks by Iraqi forces.

U.S. army Col. Dick Naab said Thursday that forces in northern Iraq would overstep their role by fulfilling requests by local Kurdish leaders for an allied-run demilitarized zone in northern Iraq and pressuring Baghdad on autonomy.

"That's not our mission. We're

really getting ready to go home," said Naab, the allies' chief negotiator with Iraqi and Kurdish leaders.

Barzani, head of the Kurdish Democratic Party, said the allies "didn't ask us when they came and they won't ask us when they leave."

Barzani, who said he has been in Baghdad for a month, said the two sides were close to agreement on the disputed city of Kirkuk, a major oil producing centre whose status helped sink earlier autonomy talks.

"We are going to find a way to solve this problem," said Barzani. He suggested "it would be maybe a joint administration."

The Kurds have already agreed to let the central government keep the oil revenues from Kirkuk, but the two sides have disputed who should control politics in the city of some 600,000.

The central government, arguing the city has a non-Kurdish majority, has insisted it remain outside a Kurdish autonomous region.

The Kurds, accusing the central government of trying to drive out Kirkuk's Kurds and replace them with Arab immigrants, have insisted it must be within their zone.

Talabani told Agency France-Press (AFP) Wednesday that Iraq had moved 182,000 Kurds out of Kirkuk since 1988. On Thursday, he told the Associated Press that the Iraqi leadership was stalling in the autonomy talks.

Barzani said Iraqi troops had killed 5,000 Kurds, mostly civilians, when it recaptured Kirkuk from Kurdish rebels in March after an uprising swept through the north.

"That is the result of the abnormal situation, the war," he said.

Barzani said the first step of the autonomy accord would be for an amnesty to permit all Kurds to return home. Some 2 million fled after Iraqi forces struck back

during the March rebellion. He has said the deal also calls for multi-party democracy throughout Iraq, an end to automatic rule by the Arab Baath Socialist Party, free speech and Kurdish rule — within the Iraqi state — in the north.

Barzani said the two sides would create "body" to hear complaints about alleged violation of the agreement — apparently as an alternative to the international guarantees that the Iraqis have rejected.

Although several previous autonomy agreements collapsed, Barzani said, "we feel they (the Iraqis) are serious ... we try to work as a team so that both sides are triumphant."

He denied reports the Iraqis had held him incommunicado in Baghdad: "It's not true and it won't be so easy," he said.

He also said a Kurdish region would not be a haven for Kurdish rebels fighting Turkey and Iran, which each have large Kurdish populations.

"We have enough problems for ourselves," he said. "We don't like to have more problems. We advise them to solve their problems peacefully."

On Wednesday, an Iraqi minister said that political liberalisation in Iraq was irreversible, within limits set to prevent Iran dismembering the country by subversion.

Information Minister Hamid Youssef Humadi said the government would announce a programme for multiparty elections by the end of this year. It is the first time an Iraqi minister has mentioned a timescale.

Humadi, whose country fought Iran for eight years between 1980 and 1988, said Iraq saw Tehran as the only danger to its security. He dismissed speculation that Iran's policy was changing under pragmatists led by its President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani.

"It's not truly pragmatic ... they have the same intentions as

banding the Revolutionary Command Council, which has governed Iraq by decree since the Baath coup of 1968.

Humadi said Iraq remained politically and socially underdeveloped so outsiders should not expect rapid change.

"In these societies (like Iraq) criticism is not practised. People think that criticism will affect the prestige of the head of the family, the tribe or the emperor.

"These societies are changing into Western-style democracies but you cannot expect them to change overnight," he said.

The minister said that of the Iraqi parties now working underground, only the Daawa Party, a Shiite Muslim group close to Tehran, would fail to qualify for legal recognition because of its religious ideology and foreign connections.

"We still regard it as a group of Iranian agents and so they have proved to be ... we will not allow religious parties because they will work against the unity of Iraq. (To legalise it) would lead to the dismemberment of Iraq and bring in Iran," he said.

"They are not prepared for logical dialogue. You cannot have dialogue with a fundamentalist who sees everyone else as infidel," Humadi added.

The government accused Iran of large-scale intervention during the unrest which broke out in the Shiite Muslim south of Iraq after the defeat of the Iraqi army in Kuwait. Shiites make up the majority of the Iraqi population but the ruling elite is Sunni Muslim.

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"It's not truly pragmatic ... they have the same intentions as

Massoud Barzani before — an Islamic republic (in Iraq)," he said.

He added: "Both sides are positive in their attitude and no problem cannot be solved."

Humadi said U.N. sanctions against Iraq — originally imposed when it invaded Kuwait last August — would not undermine President Saddam Hussein.

Diplomats and private Iraqis say the sanctions are hurting the poor without seriously affecting the Iraqi regime's hold on the reins of power.

"It's amounting to a personal vendetta. If you think the Iraqis would like to change their leader, okay, but this is the way to do it?" Humadi said.

"It is going to stiffen the Iraqi people ... we understand that they don't want to return Iraq but we have debts and we want to import food ... this policy is going to backfire, it will not achieve its objectives."

Humadi declined to discuss the decision-making process behind the invasion of Kuwait last August but said President Saddam never considered resigning when his army was defeated.

"Not for a minute, no. This country needs strong leadership," he said.

During his stay Mitsotakis will attend a special meeting of the Greek Cypriot national council.

This is a policy-making body attended by Vassilios and the leaders of the four main Greek Cypriot political parties.

The council meeting Saturday is regarded as of major importance, coming 10 days after Vassilios' talks in Washington with U.S. President George Bush, who will himself visit Greece and Turkey next month.

Mitsotakis said a lengthy

Mitsotakis in Cyprus seeking solution to island's problem

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis arrived for a three-day visit Friday and talks with the Cyprus government for joint action to promote a settlement of the problem of the war-divided island.

Thousands of Greek Cypriots gathered at Larnaca airport and along the route to the capital, Nicosia, to give an enthusiastic welcome to the Greek leader.

Addressing Mitsotakis during a brief welcoming ceremony at the airport Cyprus President George Vassilios said the visit "is not only a message of support for the people of Cyprus.

"But it is also an important step for the better organisation of our struggle for a just settlement."

Mitsotakis responded saying "brothers of Cyprus I want you to know that the whole Greek people is by your side, as they feel that your struggle is their struggle."

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The council meeting Saturday is regarded as of major importance, coming 10 days after Vassilios' talks in Washington with U.S. President George Bush, who will himself visit Greece and Turkey next month.

Mitsotakis said a lengthy

interview on Cyprus Television Thursday night that he had "logical expectations and hopes" for progress towards a settlement.

He said he pinned these hopes on his belief that Bush was sincere in his declaration after his talks with Vassilios that he wanted, to act as a catalyst for a Cyprus settlement.

The Greek Cypriots have accepted the establishment of a bi-zonal federation. But they reject Turkish insistence on the prior international recognition of the break-away state.

The Greek side also insists on the implementation of the U.N. resolutions, particularly the right of the refugees to return to their homes in the north and the withdrawal of the mainland settlers.

Turkish President Turgut Ozal has recently been reiterating a year-old proposal for a four-party conference on Cyprus to be attended by himself, Mitsotakis, Vassilios and Denktash.

Athens and Nicosia rejected the idea as sidestepping the main issues hinging on the implementation of U.N. resolutions.

The Greek side feels that Denktash's attendance at a four-party conference would be tantamount to the recognition of his break-away state.

Mitsotakis stated in his television interview that there was full agreement between Athens and Nicosia on the long-term strategy and that the Saturday national council meeting will concern itself primarily with tactics.

Israeli admits killing

Arab out of harted

TEL AVIV (R) — A 24-year-old Israeli confessed to police Thursday that he killed a Palestinian because he hated Arabs and some had insulted his mother, Israel Radio said.

A Tel Aviv court remanded the Israeli, identified as Avi Vaknin, 24, from a Tel Aviv suburb, in custody for 14 days.

The radio quoted him as saying he killed Jalal Abdallah two weeks ago in nearby Givatayim because he hated Arabs. He added that a group of Arab workers had insulted his mother when she was walking near her home.

The body of Abdallah, who lived in the occupied West Bank but worked in the Tel Aviv area, was found riddled with bullets.

In the Israeli town of Petah Tikva, police found the body of a 36-year-old Jewish man hacked to death with an axe.

They said they were investigating whether the killing was political and had detained Arab workers for questioning.

They said the killing was similar to the slaying of a Jewish grocer in the same town three weeks ago. The grocer was found in his shop with hands bound and throat slashed.

Libya regrets British police death, moves to repair ties

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel peace activist Abie Nathan ended a hunger strike after 40 days with a bowl of chicken soup Thursday, after failing in his campaign to repeal a law barring contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"I did not fast to die. I still want to live and allow others to live. That is why I stopped my fast," Nathan, 64, told reporters.

Nathan had sought removal of an Israeli law that prohibits meetings with the PLO. He was jailed under the law for 122 days in 1990 for meeting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Nathan had hoped left-wing members of parliament would push through a bill to change the law but they failed.

He ended the fast after meeting President Chaim Herzog who appealed to him to eat again. After Nathan agreed, Herzog served him chicken soup.

"After this soup, I want to eat a few other kinds of soup," Nathan said, laughing weakly. He drank only water during the fast and had become a gaunt figure moving about in a wheelchair.

"In the course of (those) meetings

we got a package of proposals from the Libyans on very significant matters," Taylor said in a telephone interview. He said he also had talks with Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi during his visit.

Taylor said he handed the messages earlier this week to Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who was asked by reporters in Paris Wednesday whether Britain felt it was time to end Libya's isolation.

One reporter said France and Germany were moving in that direction.

"We think the Libyan connection with terrorism is a fairly recent one and an overwhelming majority of us and we are not yet persuaded to follow that line ourselves," he said.

Ethiopia's new leaders order old security service closed down

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia's new provisional government, cementing its grip on the country, Friday ordered the feared security services of deposed Marxist Mengistu Haile Mariam to be closed down immediately.

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), whose ragged guerrillas captured Addis Ababa last week, have been extending their control to towns in the famine-hit east and Thursday named a caretaker administration.

On Friday, they reopened the capital's airport after 11 days. But the scheduled first flight of the

national carrier Ethiopian Airlines failed to leave for Nairobi as planned.

In Addis Ababa, people queued for bread and petrol.

The government said in a communiqué broadcast over state radio that all offices of Mengistu's government security service and its Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE) should be closed immediately and their contents secretly executed.

Anyone found tampering with documents in the closed offices would be tried by a military tribunal, it said.

Mengistu's East German-trained security services, which

had thousands of employees, penetrated every level of society in Ethiopia to stamp out dissent.

Operating through both the government and the WPE, they arrested and tortured thousands of people during Mengistu's 14-year rule. Many of their victims were secretly executed.

Mengistu fled to Zimbabwe and sought refuge there May 21, a week before the EPRDF captured Addis Ababa.

There was some confusion about whether the new government would demand Mengistu's extradition.

Dawit Yohannes, a senior EPRDF official said Thursday on the sidelines of the Organisation of African Unity summit in Nigeria that the new government was not seeking his extradition.

The memo signed by A.Q. Oldacre was released in response

Israel exaggerated number of Scud warhead hits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli defence officials overestimated the number of Iraqi Scud missile warheads that evaded the U.S. Patriot air defence system deployed in Israel during the Gulf war, according to an army memo

The memo, written in mid-April by the deputy manager of the U.S. army missile command office responsible for the Patriot, also said the Israelis who operated the Patriot batteries sometimes failed to follow U.S. operating procedures.

The Israelis "experimented" with several non-conventional means of using the Patriot during the war, and this was one reason that the Patriot was less successful in intercepting Scud warheads in Israel than in Saudi Arabia, the memo said.

The Oldacre memo said craters in Israel made by Scud missiles were inspected only by members of the Israeli defence forces. They used "nonstandard criteria" for assessing whether the holes were caused by warheads or missile debris, he wrote.

"All craters found were assessed as Scud warhead craters," Oldacre wrote, whereas the U.S. inspectors of craters in Saudi Arabia distinguished between those caused by Scud warheads and those caused by Scud fuel tanks or other debris.

The distinction is central to a post-war debate over the military usefulness and effectiveness in destroying Scud warheads. Some have argued that the Patriot did as much harm as good in Israel because it often failed to stop the Scud warhead, which carries 800-360 kilograms of high explosives.

Because the Israelis counted all craters as Scud warhead strikes, they calculated that only 44 per cent of Scuds challenged by Patriots resulted in warhead kills, Oldacre wrote. The army says the exact number of Scud engagements by Patriots in Israel is classified secret, but sources said the number was fewer than 20. Thus, by the 44 per cent calculation, that would mean eight or fewer Scud warheads were hit by Patriots.

"After this soup, I want to eat a few other kinds of soup," Nathan said, laughing weakly. He drank only water during the fast and had become a gaunt figure moving about in a wheelchair.

"In the course of (those) meetings

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Home News

Iraq-Kuwait car plates to be changed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Vehicles bearing licence plates Iraq-Kuwait will have the plates changed into ones issued to cars for temporary stay, according to regulations released Friday by the Ministry of Interior which is responsible for the Licensing Department in Amman.

According to the new regulations, the Iraq-Kuwait licence plates will be changed into plates with black background and white lettering in English and in Arabic and will be forwarded to the Customs Department in Amman to be given to the car owners.

It said that the Customs Department in Amman would open a special register for these cars and the new plates would be valid for six months, subject to renewal.

Registration centres set up for travellers to the occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visitors to the occupied Arab territories as of June 13 will have to register at centres in Amman and three other cities to organise their departure over the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges across the Jordan River.

A statement from the Public Security Department (PSD) said that the first batch of visitors to be allowed to cross into the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, under the new regulations, can make the trip on June 16, 1991.

It said that the Amman centres, which are controlled by PSD teams, would be at Arwa Bint Al Hareth School, in Jabal Amman, and Hebron governorates, at Aishah Al Mumineen School, in Jabal Hussein, for those travelling to Gaza and Al Hussein School, in Jabal Hussein, for travellers to the Nabi Musa Governorate.

According to the statement, similar centres for the registration of visitors will be opened in Irbid, Zarqa and Salt.

Photos reflect 'aura of peace'

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The French Cultural Centre in Al Weibdeh Tuesday started displaying in its exhibition hall, works by the French photographer Bernard Guillot.

The black and white photographs on display show mostly still-life items and buildings in Egypt and France. Most of the pictures are sombre as they have an overcast sky above. Other photographs are a contrasting study of shadows and light. Almost all the photographs are devoid of human figures.

Mr. Guillot makes a point of choosing the subjects so that they reflect the actual atmosphere of the area. "I do not take photographs that distort the aura of the place," Mr. Guillot said. "I try to show on film exactly what I saw so that I can capture the feelings I had when I was taking the picture."

In one photograph of a coffee shop in a low-income area in Egypt, Mr. Guillot captures the view from the entrance and shows the traditional wooden chairs and tables scattered in

the room.

On a wall there is a broken mirror. This photograph is one of the few with human subjects. A man is sitting at a table in the empty coffee shop with a look of despair on his face.

Mr. Guillot says he finds his subjects by chance as he walks around the area he is living in at the time. "I spend most of my time in Paris and in Cairo so I find most of my subjects there," he said. "But when I do select my subjects, I like them to have a timelessness to them so that when one looks at them they are looking into eternity," Mr. Guillot said.

Mr. Guillot became a photographer 15 years ago and has not stopped since. "Until 15 years ago I used to be interested in painting, but then photography gave me a different kind of artistic satisfaction. I feel that with the choice of subjects to photograph I can prove that something is happening and can give my work some continuity," he says.

The prime minister told Jordan Television after the meeting that he was briefed on the company's plans and programmes and the ongoing expansion scheme designed to boost production beyond the annual two million tonne level in the coming few years.

"The government has provided guarantees to the APC to acquire \$15 million and \$16 million loans, from the World Bank and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank respectively, in order to help finance the company's expansion scheme" the prime minister said.

The government is giving full support to the APC to embark on the chemical industries project, based on the Dead Sea salts, which envisages the production of



PRINCESS SARVATH ATTENDS GRADUATION: Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Amman International Baccalaureate School Thursday presented certificates of appreciation to 57 students graduating from the Tawjih and Baccalaureate classes. The graduation ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Princess Sarvath also presented certificates of

appreciation to some of the school staff and to students excelling in music, social services and other schools activities. Addressing the ceremony, Princess Sarvath paid tribute to the teaching staff for their efforts in preparing the students for future life and congratulated the graduating students and their families. The Princess wished graduates a prosperous future and continued success.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Thursday chairs a meeting of the Arab Potash Company's board in the presence of a group of ministers (Petra photo)

Government pledges support for APC

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran has pledged full government support for the Arab Potash Company (APC)

sodium carbonate, magnesium and other products," said the prime minister.

Jordan's phosphate and potash provide basic components for the Jordanian fertiliser industry in Aqaba whose products are marketed both in the country and abroad, according to APC officials.

Present at the meeting were ministers of finance, industry and trade, energy and mineral resources, planning, education, transport and telecommunications, water and irrigation in addition to the APC board of directors and APC Director General Ali Ensour.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the meeting tackled prospects for increasing APC's contributions towards the development of the local community in southern Jordan where the APC plant is located.

Matters related to marketing APC products and plans for the exploitation of the Dead Sea salts were reviewed at the meeting, and the prime minister requested the minister of transport to look into the prospect of providing facilities for the exportation of 100,000 tonnes of Dead Sea salts via Aqaba, to rise to 250,000 annually in the future.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Ensour gave details about the company's present financial and administrative situation as well as its future programmes which entail expansion through stages.

"Nearly \$110 million will be needed to carry out the first phase of the two-stage plan which is due to be completed by 1993.

and another \$130 million will be needed for the second stage which will start in 1993 and finish in 1995," Mr. Ensour explained.

Mr. Ensour said that the coming year would witness the commencement of the chemical industries project which costs up to \$110 million.

"Jordan assures a unique geographical position between the east and the west, enabling the country to export its potash at very competitive prices and bringing in badly needed hard currency," said Mr. Ensour. Besides, he said, the new plans would offer more jobs to the unemployed Jordanians.

Mr. Ensour complained of a number of drawbacks facing the chemical industries project at the Dead Sea, like the lack of sufficient expertise and lack of funds to finance the project.

At present, the APC produces 1.4 million tonnes of potash which earned the country a net profit of JD 39.5 million in 1990.

Last year, the APC sold nearly 85 per cent of its production to Asian countries, with India acquiring the biggest share, but other countries in the West, like Italy, France and Brazil have been importing Jordanian potash as well.

The APC which was established in 1956, has its plants at a site near the southern tip of the Dead Sea which provides the raw materials for production.

Arab-German dialogue tackles future cooperation

By Serene Halasa and Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first Arab-German dialogue since the German reunification in October of last year was held for two days in Amman to discuss Arab-German relations in economic, political and cultural fields as well as international and bilateral relations.

The meeting, attended by a number of intellectuals and thinkers from Jordan, Germany, Syria and Egypt, also focused on new requirements for a German policy in the Middle East in light of the new world order.

Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, a professor of political science at University of Jordan, said on Friday, that he did not believe Germany would play an active role in the new world order. The reason, Dr. Abu Jaber explained, is because the "new world order has already been formed," and Germany, like the rest of the world, would only serve as "a recipient nation."

As for Germany's anticipated role in any future solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute, Dr. Abu Jaber said that their role would be "negligible." He attributed that to many factors, primarily the close American-Israeli relationship. "The U.S.-Israeli alliance will not permit any serious interference (in the Arab-Israeli dispute) to Europeans, especially Germans," he said. "Besides, the German are busy with the union. This process is estimated to cost them \$100 billion, for rehabilitating one third of the country," he added.

Another participant, Dr. Mohammed Dajani, a Jordanian researcher, expressed hope that similar conferences would be held in the future. "The European-Arab dialogue fell through after three years," Dr. Dajani said. "I hope that we can come up with an annual Arab-German dialogue."

At Thursday's session, participants discussed a range of issues, which included the special relationship between Germany and Israel in what they referred to as the "guilt complex," the new requirements for a German policy in the Middle East within the framework of a European policy. And the role of the Arab World in the emerging new world order.

In his opening speech, Mr. Sayed Yassin, secretary general of the Arab Thought Forum in Egypt, outlined the importance of the Arab-German dialogue, which he said, came at a "critical stage and turning point in the history of the Middle East in particular, and the world at large in general."

Mr. Yassin highlighted the importance of Germany's role in shaping the future of international policies, especially concerning

the Middle East. "We, Arabs, look with trust and hope to more cooperation with Germany," he said. "West Germany was in its own right an economic giant before unity; the unified Germany is on its way to becoming a political and cultural giant as well."

"Germany is a prominent trade partner of the Arab World. It has an effective role in the Arab development and modernisation efforts, as a source of financing, know-how, technology and environment," Mr. Yassin added.

Dr. Udo Steinbach, head of the German delegation and the director of the Deutsches Orient Institute in Germany, said that since the dialogue was being held by Arabs and Germans, discussions should be confined to a general framework. This framework would urge all participants to take part in discussing the new world order and solutions to the Middle East problems.

Although Germany is currently involved in matters pertaining to its unification and confronting economic issues resulting from it, the country is bound to play an active role in the future of the international community. Dr. Steinbach said.

In reviewing German-Israeli relations and their impact on Arab-German ties, Dr. Steinbach pointed out that the German people see a just settlement to the Palestinian problem.

Dr. Feidmann Buttner, professor of political science at the Institute of Near Eastern Politics at the University of Berlin, said that Germany's role in the Middle East was still limited because of events revolving around the reunification of the two Germanys and the consequences that followed. Although these issues dominated the political scene in Germany, according to Dr. Buttner, he affirmed Germany's wish to reach a just solution to all Middle Eastern problems, especially the Palestinian problem.

Dr. Buttner also touched on the German-Israeli relation saying that "it is Germany's responsibility to actively contribute to the security of Israel (guilt complex), at the same time promoting peace in the region." He explained that this meant differentiating between Israel's security needs and its internal policies regarding the treatment of Palestinians.

Commenting on what was referred to as the German guilt complex towards Jews, Arab participants presented their perspectives on that matter.

"To what extent can any country go in responding to external pressure? Can it continue on responding to that pressure regardless of any moral consideration?" asked Dr. Ossama Al Ghazali

Iraqis, Kurds are determined to safeguard national unity — Arabiyat

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat and the parliamentary delegation accompanying him Thursday returned from Iraq at the end of a four-day visit in response to an invitation extended to them by the Iraqi National Assembly's Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Saleh.

In an arrival statement, Dr. Arabiyat said the visit was aimed at getting first-hand information on the situation in Iraq and enhancing joint cooperation between the two sister Arab countries.

The delegation met with Iraqi

President Saddam Hussein and conveyed to him the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and of the Jordanian people.

He said that discussions with the Iraqi Prime Minister Sa'doun Hammadi and with Mr. Saleh centred around the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq and means of lifting such sanctions as to divide the country.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION

- ★ Exhibition of photographs by Bernard Guillot at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdal Jabbar Salman at Alia Art Gallery, Insurance Building, 1st Circle.



Apple computer fourth annual exhibition opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Thursday opened the fourth annual exhibition of Apple computers at the Marriott Hotel. Taking part in the three-day exhibition are a number of local and international specialised companies. Lectures by specialists will be delivered at the exhibition, which exhibits the latest

Apple technologies, featuring Apple's new line of products, the Macintosh classic, the Macintosh LC and the Macintosh II, a large number of officials and those interested in the computer ceremony. The exhibition is open daily to the public for three days (7-8-9/6/1991) from 10:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. and from 4:00 until 9:00 p.m.

Italians arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Italian Senate Thursday arrived in Amman at the head of an Italian parliamentary delegation on a few day visit for talks with Jordanian officials on interna-

tional and regional developments.

The delegation's visit is part of a tour in the region aimed at finding the Jordanian and Arab

points of view towards the efforts

currently being made to establish

peace in the region.

Jordanian-Russian company established

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director of the Russian Foodstoy Company Polad Polad Zadah and his Deputy Vladimir Traqikov Thursday arrived here on a visit to Jordan at the invitation of Munir Sukhtian Company. The visit is aimed at enhancing existing bilateral relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union in the fields of water and irrigation, land reclamation, dam-building and other construction projects. It was known previously as the Ministry of Irrigation and Land Reclamation. The company, which employs more than 600,000 people, has carried out important projects in different parts of the world.

creating job opportunities for Jordanians.

Foodstoy Company is one of the leading specialised companies in the Soviet Union. It carried out specialised projects in the areas of water and irrigation, and reclamation, dam-building and other construction projects. It was known previously as the Ministry of Irrigation and Land Reclamation. The company, which employs more than 600,000 people, has carried out important projects in different parts of the world.

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Stop car pollution!

THERE IS nothing more distasteful to the eyes of Jordanians than to see so many vehicles spewing smog and dirty fumes especially in the summer season. This country is blessed with beautiful weather and a generally clean atmosphere devoid of the pollutants that afflict so many industrial and developing countries. With the helping hand of nature, Jordanians have been environment-addicts ever since the subject of ecology and related issues started to figure high on the international agenda. His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had spearheaded this global interest and concern and the people of Jordan picked up where their leaders had left off.

So why then are the eyes of the concerned officials closed to the ghastly sight of automobiles polluting the otherwise clean and healthy air of the country? Why do the licensing authorities get carried away with their demands for basic car fittings and ignore exhaust emissions that poison the atmosphere? Better than insisting on washed up cars and clean motors, the licensing authorities should better check the mechanical functioning of the car engines in a bid to make sure that polluting cars are kept off the streets and highways of the country.

Meanwhile traffic policemen are called upon to pass on traffic violation tickets to every polluting vehicle. If there is no legislation already on such a subject, it is high time that concerned officials catch on with the message of their leaders and legislate afresh on this alarming situation. The people of Jordan can also pitch in to root out this continuing menace to their health by reporting any automobile that pollutes the air. This could be done by taking down the licence plate numbers of such cars and pass them on to concerned police department. Once the numbers of the culprits are dotted down on the police computer, traffic policemen can stop them at the earliest opportunity and subject them to an on the spot inspection. Surely there are other ways to deal with this ominous phenomenon but the main thing is to begin to do something about it immediately.

It is unfortunate that when the country commemorated Traffic Day last month, no one bothered to raise this aspect of traffic problems. It took the early days and nights of the summer to awaken many of us to the continuing damage being done to the clean air of our cities and towns by the exhausts of automobiles. Being a touristic country with an ambitious plan to develop further this sector, there is obviously a pressing need to stem this problem and nip it in the bud. One of the principal features of the country is its cleanliness. This image cannot be maintained without keeping the air of Jordan clean and healthy for us and our visitors.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily once again tackled the question of solidarity among Arab countries and said it was essential in view of the growing dangers looming in the offing. So far, there are no signs that the peace process will be moving ahead, and no sign that the Middle East issues will be resolved; and therefore the Arab countries can not ignore the need for solidarity and collective stand to foil Israel's ambitious designs, the paper said. It is no longer a secret now that Israeli leaders keep the world busy with different issues and they keep bragging about their desire to have peace, but in reality they are preparing to impose capitulation on the Arabs, it said. Any delay in confronting this danger and in ending inter-Arab differences to meet the Israeli challenge will not auger well for the Arabs, the paper added. It said that the Arab countries are now confronting perhaps the most serious and crucial moment in their history; and they have to realize that they ought to strengthen their positions and actions if they want to have the international legitimacy implemented and their lands and rights restored. The paper said that it is incumbent on Arab leaders to make a move now, so that they would not find themselves facing the prospect of succumbing to the will of their common enemy.

Sawt Al Shaab described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's call for the creation of what he called "greater Israel" as another evidence of the Jewish state's obdurate stand vis-a-vis the U.S.-sponsored peace initiative. The statement noted the daily, stepped up Israeli military attacks and air raids on Palestinian and Lebanese positions in southern Lebanon, providing another proof that the Israelis have no intention of complying with the wish of the international community or their closest ally with regard to the establishment of peace in the Middle East. The paper said that the more leniency and flexibility the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular show with regard to a settlement, the further the Israelis go to prove their intransigence and the more pressure they exert on the Americans to get economic and military assistance. The Israelis are doing all in their power, through the continued aggression on Lebanon and repressive actions against the Palestinians, in order to divert the world public attention from the real problems of the region, and to abort the American-sponsored initiative, said the paper. The paper said that the United States is not placing pressure on Israel to force it to respond favourably to the international peace efforts. Unless such pressure is exerted, and unless the Israelis are forced to comply with the international legitimacy requirements, it said, all U.S. efforts will be in vain.

View From Amman

The Gulf crisis: lessons and Arab alternatives

THOUGH the lessons contemporary and future scholars may conclude from the Gulf war may run in the hundreds, I shall concentrate on only a few immediate ones that touch on our lives in the region.

It is obvious now that the so-called "liberation" of Kuwait was probably the last item on the mind of the Western leaders that participated in Operation Desert Shield against Iraq. To reiterate once again, Iraq should not have occupied Kuwait and once it did, it should have withdrawn immediately allowing for the outstanding issues between the two states to be resolved by other means. Yet one may pose the following question: Was the destruction of Iraq, its reduction to primitivism and by implication the stripping of the last vestige, even pretense of Arab power, equal to the deed of Iraq? And for whose benefit were Iraq and the Arabs reduced?

Surely, no one then or now cared about the issue of democracy in Kuwait. In fact the very word is taboo in the entire Gulf region as well as in Saudi Arabia causing severe jitters among the ruling families. And now that the masks have been removed, the region, indeed the entire Arab World, is left totally naked and defenceless, not only before Israel and other regional powers, but before any power whose fancy may be struck to penetrate the region any time it wishes.

The loss of any power cover is only matched by the loss of dignity and the feeling of guilt and shame by certain Arab states who participated in Operation Desert Shield. And now to make matters worse the Arab forces that participated in the operation are leaving, or being asked to leave under dubious and suspicious circumstances.

Since the dawn of history, life has not been easy in our Middle

Eastern region coveted by conquerors and adventurers. What makes its life more complicated is that its indigenous peoples, the Arabs, Turks and Iranians are not only suspicious of each other but divided amongst themselves as well. In May of 1990 I published an article in *Sawt Al Shaab* newspaper in Amman predicting that the historical moment in the region was ripe for a major event: that the Arab World would be struck a tremendous blow that would leave it powerless for sometime to come and that the net beneficiaries in addition to Israel would be the United States and Iran.

The blow has been struck and once again we are trying to collect the pieces and put "humpty-dumpty" together again. This brings us to the second lesson emanating from the catastrophe, which is that we of the region, Arabs, Turks, Iranians and now the Israelis have learned nothing. In the Arab case the situation is even worse: the house is so divided amongst itself, that one wonders if it exists at all. Our tattered tent would probably be more of an accurate description than a house especially since we seem to have regressed to the Jabillyah period (the pre-Islamic age of ignorance), with some tribes aligning themselves with foreign powers against their brothers. And sadly, all that is done under the cover of certain Arab regimes claiming Islamic or nationalistic legitimacy.

Where do we go from here? Again it needs to be emphasised that the regimes of the area seem to have learned little or nothing. They all converged on Cairo to elect Mr. Esmat Abdul Meguid, who now ironically as secretary-general of the Arab League declares that the Arab World will not give up one inch of the occupied territories to Israel! Brave words that should have been spoken earlier. And sadly, there are people amongst us who were

pleased with the empty rhetoric devoid of any content.

Where do we go from here? We have some alternatives still: We can continue our ride in the American merry-go-round; the Israeli controlled so-called peace process thus being witness to, and participant in our own murder. For while Mr. Bush is keen on disarming the already disarmed Arabs, American weapons and technology are pouring into Israel. We can do that. That is one alternative. We can capitulate and accept anything that Israel wants and be happy and content about it, secure in the knowledge that if Israel becomes our master, no harm will befall us except from it, when it wants. At least we will be protected from other predators. Some people may think this a viable solution in view of our total nakedness before the elements. A third alternative may be to build a high and mighty wall around Palestine and whatever other lands Israel has occupied and concentrate on developing ourselves, regaining our direction, our health until such time as things may change. The wall must be mental and perhaps even physical: something like the Great China Wall to keep the inhabitants of the great ghetto isolated while we concentrate on rebuilding our shattered civilisation. Let them truck and trade with whomever they wish, do what they want, but we must never truck with them nor give them the legitimacy of de jure recognition. A birth certificate. In the meantime we must stop the rhetoric, the talk and start working, building and creating innovatively. For in the name of security and because of the exigencies ever created by Israel, most Arab states killed not only any meaningful institutionalised political development, but the very mind of its people and assassinated its intelligentsia, the necessary yeast for the elevation of the society.

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

Algeria's Chadli: A reformist who backs his ideas with force

ALGIERS (R) — In nearly 12 years in power President Chadli Benjedid, who declared a state of siege throughout Algeria on Wednesday, has proved himself a careful reformist not afraid to support his ideas with force.

He set the one-party state on the road to multi-party democracy three years ago. Thirty-nine parties subsequently registered to compete in June 27 parliamentary elections.

Their ideologies extended from Communist to radical Islamic fundamentalist whose challenge on the streets brought his order for the army to move into the city: Chadli suspended the elections and sacked the government.

For years a socialist stronghold with a monolithic political system that brooked no dissent, the country was steered towards an open society under his pragmatic leadership.

In contrast to the dour and austere Houari Boumedienne who ruled from 1965 to 1978, Chadli rejected dogmatic socialism as an answer to the serious economic problems assailing the country after oil prices crashed.

Chadli, an outsider chosen by the army to succeed Boumedienne, proved himself a skilful politician quickly overcoming rivals to assert his leadership.

Chadli, an army colonel until he became president, began cautiously. He toned down Algeria's radical stance on the world scene, introduced gradual economic reforms, and initiated an efficiency and anti-corruption drive in the administration.

He increased the pace of change after riots erupted in October 1988 in protest against soaring prices, food shortages, unemployment and lack of freedom.

Martial law was declared. Troops put down the riots in which officials said at least 159

people died. But at the same time, Chadli ousted hardliners like Mohamad Cherif Messaadia, the ruling FLN's number two, who opposed his liberal policies.

The riots were directed against the system, not Chadli. He seized the opportunity to make changes which would have been unthinkable two years earlier.

The only candidate, he was re-elected for a third term with 81 per cent of the vote in December 1988 and changed the power structure, making government answerable to the national assembly instead of the FLN.

A new constitution, approved by 73 per cent in a referendum among the country's 25 million people in February 1989, dropped the hitherto sacrosanct word "socialism;" For the first time it allowed the other parties and enshrined the right to strike.

Chadli's efforts at home concentrated on ending corruption, improving economic efficiency and giving private enterprise a larger role.

Chadli was born on April 14, 1929 at Boueldja in the east to a farming family rooted in traditional Islamic values. He joined anti-French guerrillas fighting the Moroccan army for independence in the Western Sahara. The issue was put in the hands of the United Nations for settlement.

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Chadli worked as peace broker in the war between Iran and Iraq, resumed ties with Egypt, and was a prime mover in setting up the

Arab Maghreb Union linking Algeria with Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia in February 1989.

He involved Algeria in a tripartite committee which laid the groundwork to the Taif agreement by Lebanon's parliament and progress in ending that country's 16-year-old civil war.

During the Gulf war the Algerian government showed cautious sympathy for Iraq but avoided any open breach with the West and Kuwait's Arab allies.

After reconciliation with Morocco in 1988 following a 12-year-long dispute over the Western Sahara, Algeria wound down support for Polisario guerrillas fighting the Moroccan army for independence in the Western Sahara. The issue was put in the hands of the United Nations for settlement.

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The local daily papers discussed Israel's new threats to Syria and Lebanon, the continued western embargo imposed on Iraq, economic and political issues in Jordan as well as the Middle East question among other issues of concern to Jordan and the Arab World.

A strong criticism appearing in Al Dustour was levelled by columnist Mohammad Tumimak at the Ministry of education for accusing journalists of being in the pay of foreign circles. The writer said that the minister had made the accusation simply because Jordanian writers and journalists had been criticising certain ministers for their behaviour, and that of the Muslim Brotherhood. The writer accused the minister of exercising ideological terrorism on the people in general and on journalists in particular.

Dwelling on the same topic Mohammad Daoudieh said in his column in Al Dustour that government ministers and officials who keep accusing journalists of being serving enemy circles and in the pay of foreigners have to come up with conclusive evidence and documents to back their claims and to refer the case to the proper authorities. It is rather dangerous to hear such accusations levelled at journalists coming from the mouths of parliament members also who were elected to keep control over the government's actions and put things right and fight corruption.

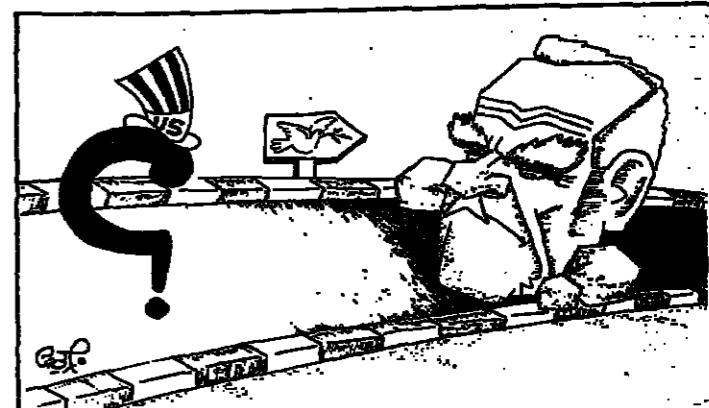
A third columnist accused parliament members of favouring certain sectors of the public and advocating their cause in government departments. Sultan Al Hattab writing in Al Ra'i daily said that certain deputies try to interfere with the normal procedures of the executive authority only to support sectors for their own selfish purposes at the expense of the interests of the other sectors. Hattab also accused officials in a number of public offices as currying favour to the deputies, with some of them paying bills to settle debts due on these deputies, in the course of trying to appease them or win their favour and to buy their silence about their abuse of public authorities.

Tareq Masarweh welcomed an announcement by the minister of information that Radio Jordan, Jordan Television and other official information services would be following the example of the press in covering events and in publishing freely matters related to domestic issues. Writing in Al Ra'i the columnist said that the minister's call on the information services to adopt the same approach followed by the press, was now going through a test, and the Jordanian public would be waiting to see whether Jordan Television, for example, would hold open seminars where people can have their say openly and freely.

The writer's views are echoed by Taher Al Udwani. Writing in Sawt Al Shaab the columnist said that although one can only welcome the development, yet Jordan television sometimes tends to favour certain groups presenting them with their favourites at the expense of others though there has been improvements only in the news bulletins much to the favour of the viewers.

He said that the information services would by no means

The week in print



dangerous to Israel's well-being.

Syria's reconciliation with the Palestinians in the past week was considered by a number of columnists as a step in the right direction and aimed at foiling Israel's plots in the Arab region.

Hanadef Faranesh said the reconciliation was for optimism as it paved the way for solidarity among countries confronting the common enemy. His views were backed by Saleh Qalab who said that in the wake of the Gulf war Iraq, Turkey and Israel have emerged as strong powers in the region. Qalab said that reconciliation and solidarity among the confrontation states, can bring new hope to the Arab World.

America's continued embargo on Iraq and the impossible conditions on the Iraqi people for the removal of sanctions on them were discussed by Khalil Khouri and other columnists in the past week.

Khouri said that the embargo is being implemented with the help of Arab countries in the Gulf for the purpose of toppling Saddam Hussein on the one hand, and to destroy Iraq's economy on the other. The embargo on Iraq, said Bader Abdul Haq in Al Ra'i daily continues to deprive the innocent people of Iraq of bread, milk and other essentials as well as equipment to rebuild the Iraqi economy. The columnist said that the United States maintains the embargo to the detriment of the Iraqi people. The columnist also noted that the concerned authorities should follow up the matter with those factories with regard to the installation of water treatment equipment and to have the factories operating again because the country cannot be left to sustain further economic damages.

Several columnists in the three Arabic dailies discussed current Israeli escalation of tension along the Lebanese border and warned of Israeli's acts of aggression on the Arab countries in the region to divert world public attention from the chronic problem of occupation.

Mahmoud Rimawi said that Syria is targeted by these raids and he expressed belief that Israel's move comes at a time to coincide with Washington's drive to disarm the region. Rimawi, who writes in Al Ra'i daily, said that Syria continues to build up a modern arsenal of weapons to defend itself from Israeli attacks and it is only natural for Israel and the United States to try to stymie this process.

Salameh Ektour said in Sawt Al Shaab that Israel was preparing for a large-scale military adventure into Lebanon and Syria. As President Bush is advocating his idea of disarming the Middle East, Israel is being allowed to launch aggression on Lebanon and Syria with the sole purpose of forcing Syria to give up its rockets and other weapons considered by Washington as

Italy's political parties face triple challenge

By Stephen Addison

Reuter

ROME — Italy's squabbling political parties, widely regarded as an anachronism in a uniting Europe, face three major challenges to their authority this month.

A referendum, an election and a provocative attempt to deepen Italy's north-south divide will all underline growing public exasperation with the political status quo, commentators say.

The mood was expressed this week by Ettore Gallo, president of the constitutional court. "We don't need to change the constitution or the north," he said. "We need to change the men in charge."

Italian governments fall so often because no one party is strong enough to govern on its own, leading to an endless series of short-lived and fractious coalitions.

The present government, led by Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, took power only two months ago but is already split over how to control public finances and deal with organised crime.

It cannot last longer than the spring of 1992 — the deadline for the next elections — and many expect it to collapse later this year.

The second challenge, regional elections in Sicily on June 16, also revolves around a CD member disaffected with the current political situation.

Leoluca Orlando, a former

mayor of Palermo who made his name as a dogged opponent of the Mafia in its own stronghold, plans to stand as the head of his own party or network against the big parties.

Analysts say his local popularity and support from the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the south — the strongesthold of the CD — could win him votes both from his old party and from former Communists disillusioned with their party's change of name and direction last year. The Communists voted to transform themselves into a mass social democratic party called the Democratic Party of the Left.

Both Segni and Orlando are avowed critics of the Italian party system which they believe spawns corruption. Orlando says the only entry qualification to his party is honesty.

The third challenge is a piece of showmanship from the most dangerous threat of all to the established order.

Senator Umberto Bossi's Lombard League, a fast-rising Northern separatist movement, plans to

Features

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1995

Gulf war is not over for U.S. military resisters

By Mitchel Cohen

IN a ramshackle courtroom at Camp Lejeune, N.C., court-martial proceedings against Marines who resisted the Gulf war have begun amid resisters' charges that they have been harassed and tortured.

According to counselors for military resisters, the Marines are dealing harshly with members who applied for conscientious objector status but relatively lightly with offenses by non-COs. And despite a ruling last month easing the resisters' confinement conditions and recognizing a pattern of official harassment, verbal and physical attacks reportedly continue.

Tens of thousands of U.S. military personnel went absent without leave between Aug. 2, 1990 and March of this year, counselors say. If charged at all, few of these service members are accused of offenses of heavier than "unauthorized absence." On the other hand, many of the approximately 2,500 service members who filed for conscientious objector status are being held on much more serious desertion charges and could be given long prison terms for various actions related to resisting the war. Most of the CO applicants are African-Americans, Latinos and Asian-Americans.

"This is clearly a political decision on the part of military," says Melissa Ennen of the New York City-based group Hands Off!. The group was formed last year by students at the New School for Social Research to defend Pfc. Sam Lwin, a classmate and conscientious objector.

Lwin is the first resister to come to trial at Lejeune. His Bronx-based Marine reserve unit, the Fox Company, was activated last November after he had filed for CO status. Lwin, along with seven other COs from his unit, refused the call-up. If found guilty, Lwin faces a maximum sentence of seven years in jail, a dishonorable discharge and loss of all benefits including health care and pension.

(At press time May 22 Lwin's court-martial, which began May 20, appeared to be going well for the defense. According to Hands Off! sources the judge dismissed the desertion charge, stating that since Lwin reported to duty Dec. 5 and his unit was activated Dec. 22 he could not be considered a deserter. This reduces the maximum sentence he faces to two years.)

Meanwhile, Kevin Sparrock of Jersey City, N.J., a student at New York City's School of Visual Arts, and Erik Larsen of Cabot Community College in California, both accused of desertion during time of war, could be sentenced to death, according to briefs filed by lawyers for the government.

Ennen reports that even as

they await court-martial, the COs at Lejeune are being treated differently from other Marines who refused to fight. "Even before their court-martials," Ennen says, "two of them — Danny Gillis and Jimmy Summers — had been held in solitary confinement cells measuring six by eight feet. They have all been intentionally ordered to extra night-time duty, which means they can sleep no longer than three hours in a row."

Gillis, a black man from Baltimore, is due to be court-martialed on charges stemming from a racial attack on him late last year; the charges could land him in jail for seven years.

Racism in the ranks

Gillis became a Muslim after he had enlisted in the military; he filed for conscientious objector status in November 1990. On December 17, 1990, Gillis' unit was ordered to Saudi Arabia, and he refused to go.

According to members of Hands Off!, as the rest of the unit boarded the bus, Gillis sat down on the concrete and refused to get on. Staff Sgt. Schillumet, who is white, ordered him onto the bus. He again refused. Unable to get Gillis onto the bus, the sergeant called four white Marines to tie Gillis' hands behind his back and beat him up.

Meanwhile, two Black Marines passing by saw four whites punching and kicking a tied-up black man and immediately came to Gillis' defense. Officers as well as enlisted men standing by entered the fray on both sides according to their race. The fight continued until a colonel came by and ordered everyone to "clean it up." At this point, Schillumet called for a van with wider doors, and Gillis was thrown into it. A minute later, however, he managed to jump out, run about ten feet, and collapsed, screaming: "You're prejudiced. I'm going to get all of you ... on grievances."

Gillis was arrested and thrown in the brig for 41 days. In addition to "missing movement," Gillis is charged with "disrespect to a superior officer" for saying, "You're prejudiced;" "wilfully disobeying a lawful command;" "disorderly conduct;" and "wrongfully communicating a threat," for saying "I will get all of you."

In Missouri, an army doctor who refused to be shipped to the Gulf won an unusual court victory in April.

Capt. Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, a Mexican-American, is being held at Fort Wood. She succeeded in having her hearing

officer (the equivalent of a judge in military courts) removed from her case when she charged him with political bias. As a result, the army was forced to bring in a new hearing officer from Fort Knox, which, according to Citizen Soldier staffer Ted Ensign, "is at least outside of the Fort Wood chain of command." Crucial to Huet-Vaughn's success, Ensign believes, is the support she's received from Kansas City anti-war activists. Fifty to 60 supporters have packed all of her hearings, exposing the prosecution's maneuver to scrutiny.

Numerous local and national groups, including Hands Off!, the War Resisters League, the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors and Citizen Soldier, have worked hard to support resisters. But some activists say they are dissatisfied at the lack of action by the major anti-war umbrella groupings.

The Lejeune resisters' depositions for their court-martial defenses are filled with reports of abuses that began once they applied for CO status. One of the sergeants "enjoyed ordering them to line up and chant 'I am shit' over and over," said one. In the brig, they are not allowed to read political literature. Authorities monitor diaries and artwork, and censor outgoing and incoming mail. Resister Demetrio Perez reports that military officers have tried to force them to sign documents against their will and without approval of their attorneys.

James Summers recounts, "When I arrived at the brig, the guards immediately started making fun of me and my CO status. They put me in leg irons, handcuffs and chains around my waist, and locked me in my cell for five days. I was taken out once a day for five minutes to take a shower." Enrique Gonzalez tells of being denied transportation, unlike other soldiers, and of being forced to walk up to 12 miles a day back and forth to work.

Several human rights groups, including Amnesty International, are now looking into resisters' charges of torture. In addition, 33 Catholic bishops from 23 states have called on President Bush to "stop the military's prosecution of conscientious objectors" and to grant them amnesty, along with honorable discharges. Many French Green Party members of the European Parliament have also expressed indignation at the treatment of the resisters in letters to the U.S. military.

Marine corps loses one
In response to mistreatment

and harassment, a group of resisters at Lejeune took the Marines to court last month, winning an important pretrial motion against the Corps. The judge ruled that their confinement to barracks was illegal, that they were permitted to leave the base, and most importantly, recognized that the harassment they underwent was not made up of isolated incidents, but was systematic and illegal, opening the way for class action suits against the military. Harassment continues, however, supporters say.

Many of the resisters wrote movingly in their CO applications about the development of their anti-war beliefs while in the military.

Marcus Blackwell, of Brooklyn, N.Y., and a student at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, stated "When I joined the military, fighting a war was the farthest thing from my mind." He continued, "My thinking was muddled. I looked at joining the military as a job."

It's not just a job, it's murder

"But when I was sent to the School of Infantry in Camp Lejeune, my eyes were really opened ... Learning how to invade enemy grounds and throwing hand grenades made me wonder, 'Is this really me that is doing this?' So now I was able to shoot and kill a person from 500 yards, destroy whole families and villages and kill people through the air. ... The job I was doing may have been good for the Marine Corps, but it was not for the good of man."

Sgt. Bobbitt also believes that experiences in the Marine Corps itself prompted him to examine his beliefs on war. During infantry training, he writes, "I saw a man fall from a helicopter to his death. It was very hard for me to accept that he had died, and even harder still to comprehend the casual attitude towards his tragic death by other Marines."

On April 17, Blackwell was sentenced to 17 months and Bobbitt to 14 months in a military prison, and both received dishonorable discharges after pleading guilty in exchange for reduced sentences.

Mitchel Cohen is a Vietnam-era draft resister and an organizer with the Red Balloon Collective. The article is reprinted from the New York-based *The Guardian*.

(Continued from page 1)

interests than on the general benefit of the state and society," King Hussein explained.

The King proposed the idea for a charter after the election of 80 representatives to the Lower House of Parliament for the first time since the 1967 Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

"Although I am the one who proposed this idea and defined the objectives and the aims ... it is out of my absolute conviction, and the conviction of the people, that a parliamentary, constitutional and democratic life is our choice together," the King said.

The King, in his address, pointed to the developments in Jordan's political life, beginning with the decision to sever ties with the Israeli-occupied West Bank in July 1988 and stressed the heavy burden he undertook as the sole executor throughout the absence of an elected parliament.

While describing the decision to sever ties with the occupied territories as the move that "opened the closed door to national election," he pointed to the April riots of 1989 as the point of inspiration for the need to "renew the social contract."

"I saw that limiting the solution of the problem to conducting national elections is an incomplete procedure because it would mean that we would enter the stage of parliamentary participation while we carry on ideas which contradict or deviate from the foundations upon which this state is created," the King said. "It would definitely paralyse our ability to deal with our prob-

lems."

An analyst-lawyer who is also a member of the commission to draft the National Charter believes that the idea of a National Charter was an old one proposed by the government forces to strengthen their own standing against other political ideologies but that the King expanded the forum to include all spectrums of political thought in the country.

"Sometime ago the establishment forces wanted a charter that would strengthen the Jordanian national identity among those who were benefiting from the regime to compete with the ideologies of others," the lawyer explained.

With the eruption of what is now remembered as the bread riots, the need to address the ideologies and grievances became apparent and the idea of the National Charter was expanded to include all political avenues.

The King himself was the most direct and explicit on why it was necessary to lay guidelines for the work of political parties, he said that the two contributors to the "unsettling" history of political pluralism in the Kingdom were outside control or financing for political parties and the conviction of each party at that time that it alone represented the truth.

Analysts point to a third factor that may have contributed to the King's decision to initiate a charter governing pluralism; laying the foundations of the constitution as the ceiling for political ideology in the country.

However, in the minds of its writers, the charter remains a ground of agreement between the different political ideologies in the country from which legislation will be excerpted.

"The charter defines the ground rather than the sky. The legislation derived from it will vary in height, just as the ground is not all the same level. All the legislation, all the same, will be under the dome of the blue sky."

The King was aware that Islamist parties for example believed in an Islamic caliphate rule while the constitution explicitly says the state of authority in Jordan is parliamentary and hereditary monarchy," one analyst says.

Other schools of thought, while conceding that this argument may have contributed to the decision to propose a charter, maintain that the charter "constitutes a reiteration of legitimacy for the system through orchestrating a procedure that would lead to a renewal of popular approval."

"The constitution may stipulate certain foundations that do not change; however, it is necessary for any system of government to renew its legitimacy after important events," a member of the commission points out in reference to the riots in the south.

Mr. Obaidat, in one of the meetings of the commission pointed to this same line of thought when he said: "remember that the constitution was written forty years ago and in those forty years many new images and realities took place which would contribute to the development of our awareness."

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authorities will extend all possible help for the group "until we ensure a safe arrival in Amman."

The police official warned that the group will have to "abide by the laws and regulations of the country in order to avoid disturbances."

Last May, more than 25,000 enthusiastic Jordanians clashed with security forces in the same area during a peace march from Amman to the bridge.

During the remaining three-day walk to Amman, participants planned several activities including fasting, holding silent vigils, planting trees and other symbolic expressions of goodwill and solidarity.

The participants include U.S., Canadian, Japanese, British, Belgian, Finnish, Australian, Irish and Indian citizens.

National Charter: A common ground with no ceiling

(Continued from page 1)

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lems."

Members of the association said that it was the first time in the history of the pharmacists association elections, two separate halls were set up for the voters according to their sexes. "Female pharmacists who wished to cast their votes in the hall designated for males were free to do so, others voted in separate halls," one source told the Jordan Times.

The elections were held to elect a new president for the association, and a new nine-member board for a period of two years.

Contesting for the president's post were three pharmacists: Tawfiq Al Azze, Mohammad Hassan Sedar, and Hussain Edine Mismar. Nineteen pharmacists representing pharmacy owners, drugstores and employees

sometimes turned to outright insults. Members of the association said that it was the first time in the history of the pharmacists association elections, two separate halls were set up for the voters according to their sexes. "Female pharmacists who wished to cast their votes in the hall designated for males were free to do so, others voted in separate halls," one source told the Jordan Times.

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■ Sports and Games

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Norway humbles Italy at European Championships

OSLO (R) — Norwegian soccer fans sang, drank and danced in the streets after their side's historic 2-1 win over Italy Wednesday.

But while Norway celebrated, Italian manager Azeglio Vicini faced an uncertain future.

Vicini was under increasing pressure to resign after Norway's collection of low-paid semi-professionals and foreign club players humbled their famous Italian counterparts.

"The Italian soccer millionaires were absolutely massacred by Norway," the Daily Verdens Gang said in a gleeful front-page splash.

"I'm not so sure the Mona Lisa is smiling any longer," wrote a commentator in the same paper. "If I were an Italian, I'd check the Tower of Pisa also. Either it's leaning more than ever, or it's fallen. Smashed. Just like the Italian team."

The result came close to eclipsing a 2-1 victory over England in 1981 bronze or their medal at the 1936 Berlin Olympics as Norwegian soccer's finest hour.

Their side went ahead with two early goals by Tore Andre Dahlum and Lars Bohinen, although substitute Salvatore

Scillaci, top-scorer in last year's World Cup finals when Italy reached the last four, saved a shred of pride for his side with a second-half header.

Norwegian newspapers hailed national coach Egil Olsen, appointed late last year, as a "folk hero," "genius" or "King Midas" — saying everything he touched turned to gold.

Amid the jubilation, Olsen sounded a note of caution.

"As I see it the chances for a European Cup place are still fairly small," he said. "We still have three tough matches. But of course we can beat the Soviet Union at home in August when we can beat Italy."

Only one team from group three — also comprising Hungary and Cyprus — will qualify for the 1992 finals in Stockholm. The win propelled Norway to second in the group behind the Soviet Union.

Norway have now gone eight games without losing — an all-time record.

In Italy, the game was described as "Italy's second Korea" by television commentator Maurizio Mosca.

Mosca was referring to North Korea's 1-0 defeat of Italy in the

1966 World Cup finals in England, a defeat which eliminated Italy in the first round.

Thursday's sports press carried headlines such as "Victim at the line" and "poor Italy," speculating that within days Vicini may be replaced by the former AC Milan coach, Arrigo Sacchi.

Italian Federation president Antoni Matarrese appeared to fuel such speculation when he said in Oslo, after the game:

"This is one of the blackest pages in the history of our soccer ..."

"We were surprised by the enthusiasm of our opponents. Perhaps someone in Italy underestimated the real worth of Olsen's team."

While stating that the federation would honour Vicini's contract, due to expire in June 1992, if the manager so wished, Matarrese also left the door open for Vicini to resign.

"If Vicini has some other pre-existing job offer, we won't get in his way," he said. "Vicini is a serious person but I cannot afford to waste time."

Vicini has been in charge of the Italian Team since the 1986 World Cup.

Agassi outduels Becker in French Open semis

PARIS (AP) — Andre Agassi outduled and outran a frustrated Boris Becker 7-5, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 Friday to reach the French Open final for a second straight year.

Agassi, pursuing his first Grand Slam title, chased down many of Becker's best shots, kept him away from the net, and made fewer errors en route to a semi-final victory that climaxed with an ace.

Becker berated himself loudly at several points. But the two rivals embraced warmly at the end, each complimenting the other's championship.

The defeat wrecked Becker's chance of recapturing the no. 1 ranking from Steffi Edberg and left him still without a clay-court championship in his career despite marked improvement on the surface.

In the final Sunday, Agassi will play the winner of Friday's later semifinal between ninth-seeded Jim Courier and no. 12 Michael Stich. Courier has given Becker a shot at the no. 1 ranking by beating top-seeded Edberg Wednesday.

Agassi, seeded fourth, has won four straight matches against Becker, who was seeded second here.

"If Vicini has some other pre-existing job offer, we won't get in his way," he said. "Vicini is a serious person but I cannot afford to waste time."

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under control at any stage. He's improved his game tremendously from the baseline. Any other day it could have been different."

Graf, Sabatini creamed

Meanwhile, Steffi Graf suffered the most lopsided defeat of her career. Gabriela Sabatini blew her chance to become no. 1. And by the end of a stormy Thursday at the French Open, Monica Seles was still on top — and preparing to face Arantxa

Vicario for the women's championship.

The two finalists are not too surprising, since each has won a French Open before. But the way they won in the rain-swept semifinals was stunning.

Sanchez Vicario, the 1989 champion, defeated Graf 6-0, 6-2 — the fewest games the German has won in a complete match since turning pro as a 13-year-old in October 1982. Seles beat Sabatini 6-4, 6-1.

"That hasn't happened in a long, long, long time," said a stunned Graf. "And I hope it's going to be a long, long, long time until that happens again."

Graf, who has won seven Grand Slam titles and had not lost a set in reaching the semifinals, whiffed on one backhand and slammed overheads way out of bounds. She made error after error on her usually potent forehand, winning only 11 first-set points.

"I just couldn't get a ball in. I can't remember the last time I played that bad," she said. "Nothing worked. I tried everything. I haven't had that kind of feeling for a long time."

While Graf was playing terribly, the fifth-seeded Sanchez Vicario was doing what she had to do to win against a struggling opponent.

"I controlled the play from the beginning," said the Spaniard, scheduled to play semifinal matches in the women's doubles and mixed doubles Friday. "I placed my balls well, I hit them well. I didn't make any mistakes and she made lots of errors."

Graf's slide from no. 1 and dominance of the women's tour during the last year has corresponded with a series of controversies involving her father, Peter. And that was the case again.

Witnesses said Peter Graf and an American tennis fan identified as Jim Levee, who has befriended several players, had a confrontation.

Seles and Sabatini battled each other with a mixture of hard groundstrokes and delicate drop shots, with the top seed taking an early service break but then having Sabatini break right back in the fifth game of the first set.

Then the weather turned nasty.

Sabatini lost her touch when she returned from the second break. She failed to win a point as Seles held her serve to go up 5-4, then dropped her own serve to lose the first set.

She never got back in the match, badly mis-hitting several shots as her backhand disintegrated. She managed just five points on Seles' serve in the second set.

Seles got to match point on a service winner that Sabatini barely nicked. Then, after a Seles double fault, Sabatini hit a shot that was called long and led to a brief protest by the Argentine.

It was the last in a series of disputed line calls in the match, including the point on which Seles won the first set another shot by Sabatini that was just long.

Seles, who has won all four of her previous matches against Sanchez Vicario, said winning her second straight French Open championship is more important than the no. 1 ranking.

"The title would be much bigger for me than being no. 1," said Seles, who won the Australian Open in January. "If I keep winning I'll stay no. 1. For me the greatest thing is winning all the Grand Slams I can this year."

\$1m bonus at stake in Belmont

KENTUCKY DERBY, the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes.

Strike The Gold, winner of the Kentucky Derby and 5-2 favourite at Belmont, tied on 10 points with Preakness winner and second favourite Hansel in the challenge for the jackpot.

Mane Minister — a stunning third in the Derby after being

rated 8-1 and third again three weeks ago in the Preakness — has six points.

Corporate Report, an 8-1 bet to win Saturday, has five points from a second in the Preakness. He was ninth in the Derby.

Ten points are given for a first place, five for a second, three for a third and one for a fourth.

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Seles got to match point on a service winner that Sabatini barely nicked. Then, after a Seles double fault, Sabatini hit a shot that was called long and led to a brief protest by the Argentine.

It was the last in a series of disputed line calls in the match, including the point on which Seles won the first set another shot by Sabatini that was just long.

Seles, who has won all four of her previous matches against Sanchez Vicario, said winning her second straight French Open championship is more important than the no. 1 ranking.

"The title would be much bigger for me than being no. 1," said Seles, who won the Australian Open in January. "If I keep winning I'll stay no. 1. For me the greatest thing is winning all the Grand Slams I can this year."

Graf's slide from no. 1 and dominance of the women's tour during the last year has corresponded with a series of controversies involving her father, Peter. And that was the case again.

Witnesses said Peter Graf and an American tennis fan identified as Jim Levee, who has befriended several players, had a confrontation.

Seles and Sabatini battled each other with a mixture of hard groundstrokes and delicate drop shots, with the top seed taking an early service break but then having Sabatini break right back in the fifth game of the first set.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank					
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	Net Verb Close	Telec Close			
	Date 5/6/1991	Date 5/6/1991			
Sterling Pound	1.6938	1.6895			
Deutsche Mark	1.7483	1.7503			
Swiss Franc	1.4955	1.4970			
French Franc	5.4200	5.4240**			
Japanese Yen	139.28	139.25			
European Currency Unit	1.1785	1.1762**			
** USD Per STG					
** European Opening + 8:00 a.m. GMT					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 6/6/1991					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	6.06	6.12	6.25	6.66	
Sterling Pound	11.50	11.17	10.57	10.87	
Deutsche Mark	8.81	8.43	9.00	9.12	
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	
French Franc	9.50	9.57	9.57	9.18	
Japanese Yen	7.81	7.68	7.53	7.40	
European Currency Unit	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.75	
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent					
Precious Metals Date: 6/6/1991					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²
Gold	363.35	6.75	Silver	4.24	.095
** 21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 6/6/1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	.683	.685			
Sterling Pound	1.1525	1.1563			
Deutsche Mark	.3897	.3916			
Swiss Franc	.4558	.4581			
French Franc	.1151	.1157			
Japanese Yen*	.4897	.4921			
Dutch Guilder	.3456	.3475			
Swedish Krona	.1085	.1090			
Italian Lira*	.0527	.0530			
Belgian Franc	.01897	.01906			
* Per 100					
Other Currencies Date: 6/6/1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.7850	1.8100			
Lebanese Lira*	.074	.076			
Saudi Riyal	.1817	.1825			
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—			
Qatari Riyal	.1845	.1850			
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2050			
Omani Riyal	1.7450	1.7650			
UAE Dirham	.1845	.1850			
Greek Drachma*	.3460	.3660			
Cypriot Pound	1.4090	1.4390			
* Per 100					
GAM Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	4/6/1991 Close	5/6/1991 Close			
All-Share	112.69	112.16			
Banking Sector	109.69	108.95			
Insurance Sector	112.94	112.92			
Industry Sector	115.18	114.91			
Services Sector	128.50	128.24			
December 31, 1990 = 100					

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.	
One Sterling	1.6825/35
One U.S. dollar	1.1465/70
	1.7550/60
	1.9770/80
	1.5045/55
	36.13/17
	5.9430/80
	1302/1303
	139.60/70
	6.3100/50
	6.8425/75
	6.7350/7400
One ounce of gold	365.70/366.20
U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
Swiss francs	Belgian francs
French francs	Italian lire
Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
	U.S. dollars

SENIOR WEEK

Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420
Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m. 10:30

PHILADELPHIA

Cinema TWO MOON JUNCTION Tel: 634144
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155
Lalla Alawi In THE INTOXICATED Arabic
Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema NIJOUN Tel: 675571
Adel Imam In DANGEROUS RECORDER Arabic
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Yemen oil production seen doubling by 1994

Philippine legislators approve cap on foreign debt payments

MANILA (R) — The Philippine congress, defying appeals by President Corazon Aquino, approved Thursday a 20 per cent ceiling on foreign debt repayments as part of the national budget.

The senate and the house of representatives separately passed the budget for 1991, which included a provision to limit payments on the country's \$29 billion foreign debt to 20 per cent of 1989 export earnings.

Mrs. Aquino said she would veto any provision to limit debt payments, saying it would undermine Manila's ability to obtain new loans.

"The amount for the payment of foreign debt, both as principal and interest, by the national government shall not exceed 20 per cent of the merchandise export receipts for the year 1989," the provision stated.

The export income in 1989 totalled \$7.8 billion.

In 1990, the Philippines' foreign debt repayments totalled around \$3 billion or 36 per cent of last year's export earnings of \$8.2 billion.

"A debt cap provision in any budget legislation or elsewhere

sends the wrong signals to those in the international community with whom we have financial and other dealings," Mrs. Aquino said Tuesday.

"We would be placing ourselves in a situation that would be quite untenable," she said.

The legislators went ahead with the debt cap provision, knowing Mrs. Aquino would veto it but acknowledged both houses may find it difficult to muster two-thirds vote to override a presidential veto.

"This is an expression of legislative principle. We are saying that we are not satisfied with the way our debt problem is being handled," Nepali Gonzales, chairman of the senate committee on finance, told reporters before the chamber voted on the budget.

He said international lending institutions should change their outlook towards poor debtor countries like the Philippines and realise that "the old standards can no longer apply."

"If (one day) we cannot pay and our people riot and rampage on the streets, these foreign institutions may have no government to deal with," Mrs. Gon-

zales said.

"It is also in the interest of these institutions that these governments (like the Philippines) survive," he said.

A possible confrontation over debt policy loomed as Manila prepared to meet its official creditors for a rescheduling of \$1.6 billion of debt.

The country's debt negotiators, led by Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao, are scheduled to meet Paris Club creditors on June 18.

The country's commercial creditors have been wary of granting fresh loans to the Philippines unless there were enough safeguards because of a congressional proposal for a debt cap.

Manila is seeking a new money package under complementary financing programme between commercial banks and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The government wants the banks to lend Manila at least \$250 million and the ADB to extend counterpart funds that would either match or exceed the commercial banks' loans.

Officials earlier estimated new borrowings for the year at \$800 million.

Local banks lend Saudi government \$2.5 billion

RYADH (AP) — The government borrowed \$2.5 billion from local banks to meet some of the costs of the Gulf war, diplomatic sources have reported.

It was the second dollar-denominated loan the kingdom sought this year to help pay a \$13.5 billion pledge in cash and ground support services for Operation Desert Storm.

Last Month, the Saudi government signed a \$4.5 billion loan provided by a group of foreign institutions.

Banking sources told the AP-Dow Jones news service in Bahrain that the new deal was put together by National Commercial Bank and Riyadh Bank, the two largest banking institutions in the kingdom, and was syndicated among the other Saudi banks.

The five-year credit was signed in Riyadh last week, they said.

AP-Dow Jones quoted the unnamed bankers as noting terms on the foreign borrowing were more attractive than the local deal.

These were the first foreign borrowings by the kingdom in more than 25 years.

Both loans were surrounded with secrecy, but were arranged with relative ease given the kingdom's standing as the world's largest oil-exporting nation. The Islamic proscription against usury makes borrowing a highly sensitive subject for the Saudi government.

The planned overseas capital spending would be greater than the one per cent increase reflected in an earlier poll taken last summer. And it would continue to exceed the projected two per cent growth in domestic investment.

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NATO agrees way ahead for post-cold war security, defence

COPENHAGEN (R) — NATO agreed Friday how to shape a new security and defence architecture for the post-cold war era, ceding some ground to organisations like the European Community as long as they do not undermine the alliance.

The 16 NATO foreign ministers, at the end of a two-day meeting in Copenhagen, agreed to hold an alliance summit in Rome in November which will approve a military and political blueprint for NATO's future.

They pledged to strengthen the 34-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), laid out NATO's main tasks and agreed European NATO members were free to strengthen their voice on defence matters independently of the United States — the alliance's senior member.

"This meeting has taken us an

important step forward on the way to the most radical transformation of our alliance in its history," NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner told a news conference.

The ministers agreed Thursday to increase military and political contacts with their former cold war enemies and opened fresh perspectives for arms control.

"We have cleared away a number of fears and phantasms," said Gabriel Robin, France's ambassador to NATO.

The ministers said NATO would remain the essential forum for safeguarding Western security and explicitly welcomed, for the first time, the European Community's moves to closer political integration, which may include a defence identity.

France, Germany and Spain had sought hints recognition since they favour a more independent

European voice on defence with the EC. Eleven of the 12 community states are also NATO members.

But the ministers also said any moves to create a stronger European voice must not undermine the trans-Atlantic link at the heart of NATO and must find ways to include members of the alliance, like Norway and Turkey, which are not EC members.

This reassured the United States and some European allies that there would not be a "go it alone," European defence policy.

"We set out to guidelines, the framework for our future relationship," Woerner said. "The road is clear. It's up to the Europeans to take decisions within this framework."

Woerner said NATO was prepared to meet the security concerns of the new democracies in Eastern Europe, which are wor-

ried about living in the shadow of an unstable Soviet Union, by offering them more contacts and building up the CSCE.

Although NATO has told them they cannot join the alliance, the ministers said their security was of direct concern to them.

Woerner refused to say whether this amounted to a security guarantee but said NATO wanted Moscow included in its contacts.

"We want to build the new Europe with, and not against, the Soviet Union," he said.

The Copenhagen meeting was one of the major building blocks for the Rome summit, to be held on Nov. 7 and 8.

Last week, NATO defence ministers approved plans for the alliance's military shakeup, including the formation of "rapid reaction" forces to face any new threats to Europe.

Russian election campaign enters final week



Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik is seen after being pelted with eggs and flour during a visit to a Seoul campus Monday.

Students allow autopsy on South Korean protester

SEOUL (R) — South Korean students facing a backlash of public outrage over an assault on the prime minister backed away from a bloody confrontation Friday by permitting a post mortem on a student killed in a May protest.

One, business student Choi Kap-Ki, 21, gave himself up voluntarily Thursday, police said.

Late Thursday, the government detained the nation's best known dissident, Moon Ik-Hwan. Moon, a Presbyterian pastor sentenced to a seven year jail term for visiting North Korea in 1989, has played a leading role in the protests that have rocked the country this year.

Dissidents, students and radical labour activists plan nationwide rallies Saturday to protest against the arrest.

"The arrest of Pastor Moon, who has devoted his life for unification and democracy, is ignoring his opinion of our people and world wide," an organisers' statement said.

The size of the turnout will be closely watched to gauge how much support protesters can muster.

Released late last year on medical grounds, Moon, 72, was a leader of the funeral committee opposing to autopsy on Kim.

Moon, was also a leader of the funeral committee for Kang Kyung-Dae, killed by riot police with iron pipes on April 26. His death ignited the protests of the past six weeks, the most violent in South Korea since 1987.

COLUMN 10

Prince William chats after surgery

LONDON (R) — Prince William, eight-year-old grandson of Britain's Queen Elizabeth and future heir to the throne, was making a good recovery Tuesday after an operation on a skull fracture, Buckingham Palace said. The prince, eldest son of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, was hit accidentally with a golf club at his private boarding school Monday. A neurosurgeon, Sir Richard Hayward, operated to check for bone splinters after tests showed a dented bone in the royal forehead, a condition known as a depressed fracture. The palace said surgeons were happy with his progress after the 70-minute operation and expected no lasting ill effects. His mother kept vigil through the night at London's Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

William ate breakfast and chatted happily. The fair-haired prince, nicknamed "wild Willie" and "basher" by friends, was practising on his school's nine-hole golf course when caught above his left eye by a swing from a classmate.

A palace spokesman said that, in talkative mood, he was visited by younger brother Prince Harry, aged six.

Spanish robber gets freedom and job offer

MADRID (R) — Spain's most popular robber, a security guard who stole \$2.7 million from a Madrid prison to start a new job — with a security firm. Dionisio Rodriguez Martin, 42, drove off with his vanload of cash two years ago and resurfaced in Rio De Janeiro with a blond wig and cosmetic surgery on his nose. He is a palace spokesman said that, in talkative mood, he was visited by younger brother Prince Harry, aged six.

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Quayle urges Slovakia not to split from Prague

BARDEJOV, Czechoslovakia (R) — U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle urged the Czech and Slovak nations Friday to stay together in one country, saying this was the best way to preserve stability in Central Europe.

Speaking at Bardejov, a mediaeval fortified town in eastern Slovakia, Quayle made clear he thought it was in the best interests of Slovaks seeking greater autonomy to stay in the Czechoslovakian federation.

"Czechs and Slovaks together have a proud tradition of democracy and freedom," he told an international crowd of academics and government officials at the Institute for East-West Security Studies.

Quayle was met by several thousand people when he arrived in the town, which is close to the Polish border. He is the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Slovakia.

Despite Quayle's appeal for Czechoslovakia not to split up, a banner "independence for Slovakia" was unfurled over the crowd he addressed outside Bardejov town hall and some members of crowd waved the Slovak national flag.

Quayle told the crowd he appreciated Czechoslovakia's diversity but saw its future as a united federal republic.

BARDEJOV, Czechoslovakia (R) — The best course of action for the Czech and Slovak people and for the stability of Europe.

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Thai, Vietnamese military leaders urge closer ties

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